

-1-23

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office SALT LAKE CITY	Office of Origin SALT LAKE CITY	Date 11/10/60	Investigative Period 11/1/60
TITLE OF CASE ARTHUR JAMES BALLETTI		Report made by b7c	Typed By: JL
CHARACTER OF CASE UNAUTHORIZED PUBLICATION AND USE OF COMMUNICATIONS			

XXXXXX REFERENCE: Salt Lake City airtel to the Bureau, dated 11/4/60

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ADMINISTRATIVE

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b7D The information contained in this report was received from [REDACTED] of the Clark County Sheriff's Office, Las Vegas, Nevada. Mr. DAN ROWAN made no formal complaint with regard to his telephone being tapped at the Riviera Hotel. \A

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It will be noted that [REDACTED] advised that the conversations recorded were those of DAN ROWAN of the Rowan and Martin comedy team, presently appearing at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, and PHYLLIS MC GUIRE of the McGuire Sisters Trio. ROWAN advised [REDACTED] in strictest confidence.

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[REDACTED]

on 11/1/60, ROWAN signed a statement at the Clark County Sheriff's Office, Las Vegas, stating that he wished to have all charges dropped which he had previously requested be filed against BALLETTI at the time it was determined that he had tapped his telephone at the Riviera Hotel. u

LEADS

MIAMI DIVISION (INFORMATION)

One copy of report furnished Miami in view of possible future investigation in that division. u

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

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Report of:
Date: 11/10/60

Office: Salt Lake City, Utah

Field Office File No.: Salt Lake City 139-17

Bureau File No.:

Title: ARTHUR JAMES BALLETTI

Character: UNAUTHORIZED PUBLICATION AND USE
OF COMMUNICATIONS

Synopsis: BALLETTI arrested 10/31/60 at Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada. Admitted that he had received instructions from Investigations, Incorporated, Miami, Florida, to surveil and record telephone conversations of DAN ROWAN. BALLETTI had in his possession numerous electronic devices including transmitters, receivers, Minifon wire recorders, Minox camera, and seventeen professional type lock picks. Also an AM-FM transistor radio which was thought to be receiving on the same frequency that the telephone tap was broadcasting on. BALLETTI stated that FRED T. HARRIS, a free lance electronics man and investigator from Miami, had entered ROWAN's room and had installed the listening device. ROWAN requested that all local charges against BALLETTI be dropped. 4

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DETAILS:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/10/60

Clark County Sheriff's Office, advised he had received a call from the Riviera Hotel, the hotel management advising that two persons had registered in on October 26, 1960, one of them giving the name of ARTHUR BALLETI and the other as J. W. HARRISON, and that they had given a Water Street address in San Francisco and a Freeman Street address in Los Angeles at the time they registered. The management of the Riviera Hotel had advised that inasmuch as the hotel bill had not been paid that a check of their room, No. 331, had revealed that there were a number of suspicious looking electronic devices and that a number of notes had been made on a yellow pad which contained the name of DAN ROWAN, one of the partners in the Rowan and Martin comedy team, who at that time were appearing at the Riviera Hotel. Also on this pad were several dates, times and places concerning ROWAN's whereabouts for the past several days. The hotel management advised they had determined the person who had registered as J. W. HARRISON was FRED T. HARRIS and that he had left the hotel on October 30, 1960.

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stated on his arrival at the Riviera Hotel that he observed BALLETI paying his hotel bill at the front desk and he had several bandages on his hands and arms and appeared to be extremely nervous. He stated that a records' check of his department failed to reveal anything concerning BALLETI; however, they have a record of J. W. HARRISON, an ex-convict having been previously arrested for forgery, burglary, and robbery.

stated BALLETI was contacted in his room and questioned concerning the cuts on his arms which he was unable to properly explain and he stated that the person who had registered with him under the name of J. W. HARRISON was FRED T. HARRIS; that he was from Florida rather than from San Francisco and stated the reason they did not give their true addresses was that they did not want their wives to find out where they were. BALLETI stated he was in Las Vegas on vacation and that he was employed in Miami as a consultant. He was asked for identification at which time he handed the officers a driver's license in the name of BYRAM whose description was completely different than that of BALLETI.

On 11/1/60 at Las Vegas, Nevada File #Salt Lake City 139-17

b7c by SA [redacted] /jl Date dictated 11/4/60

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BALLETTI stated that he had given the officers the wrong license; that he had picked this one up from a friend of his and had forgotten to return it. BALLETTI was requested to let the officers search his room at which time he refused. He became very excited and extremely nervous. u

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An effort at that time was made to locate DAN ROWAN to determine if a microphone or a tap had been made in ROWAN's room. The officers were unsuccessful in locating ROWAN and with the aid of the hotel management his room was entered and [redacted] observed a set of bare wires running from the telephone box in ROWAN's room, No. 228, to an electronic transmitting wireless microphone which had been taped to the bed and connected to the telephone box with the bare wires. There was an aerial strung along the back of the bed. This transmitting paraphernalia was removed from the telephone by deputy sheriffs. u

BALLETTI was again interrogated by deputy sheriffs and at first denied owning this instrument which had been recovered from ROWAN's room and later would not affirm or deny his knowledge concerning it. He was at that time placed under arrest and a complete search was made of his room. A yellow steno pad revealed notes and notations which BALLETTI had written down dates and times on which he had recorded portions of DAN ROWAN's telephone conversations. A locked suitcase in BALLETTI's room was unlocked with a key which was furnished by BALLETTI and it was determined that this suitcase contained a large quantity of electronic devices including transmitters, receivers, wall plugs, a Minifon wire recorder, a Minox camera and also a set of seventeen professional type lock picks. Also found on the floor near the west wall of the room was a Sony AM-FM transister radio with a piece of masking tape across the top next to the dial needle with the markings T and R on this tape. u

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[redacted] stated later tests showed that the R on the tape in the shortwave portion of the tunechanger was the frequency on which one of the transmitters in the suitcase would broadcast on and is believed to be on the same frequency that the telephone microphone was broadcasting on. u

[redacted] stated on arriving at the Detective

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Bureau of the Clark County Sheriff's Office, BALLETI admitted he had been hired by Investigations, Incorporated, Miami, Florida, which is a company owned by a former FBI Agent, EDWARD DU BOIS, and that this company apparently had a client who had requested investigation concerning DAN ROWAN's private life. BALLETI admitted listening and recording ROWAN's telephone conversations and he stated he had been surveilling him and listening to his conversations since October 26, 1960.

BALLETI stated FRED T. HARRIS, who is a free lance electronics man and investigator from Miami, had entered ROWAN's room and had installed the listening device. He stated he had also listed some of the information from notes in ROWAN's room. BALLETI stated HARRIS had planned on staying long enough just to install the microphone; however, had stayed over a few days in Las Vegas to play the horses and that HARRIS had returned to Florida on the morning of October 30, 1960, by TransWorld Airlines.

SECRET/agent confidence

stated ROWAN had related to him

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stated ROWAN appeared at the Clark County Sheriff's Office on November 1, 1960, and signed a release

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stating he desired that all charges against BALLETI be dropped and that no action be taken by the Clark County Sheriff's Office with regard to the burglary and the intrusion of privacy by use of a listening device stating that BALLETI was only working for someone else.